



# How to find Washington State BIRTH RECORDS

**Washington State Library**  
[www.sos.wa.gov/library/Genealogy.aspx](http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/Genealogy.aspx)

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## Who has the records?

Birth certificates from July 1, 1907 to the present day are held by the [Washington Department of Health](http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/cert.htm). [www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/cert.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/cert.htm)

For birth records before July 1, 1907 in King, Pierce, Snohomish & Spokane, contact the [local health department](http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/issuing_co.htm) where the birth occurred. [www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/issuing\\_co.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/issuing_co.htm)

For all other counties, for records before July 1, 1907, contact the [county auditor](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphl/chs/CHS_Aud.pdf). [www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphl/chs/CHS\\_Aud.pdf](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphl/chs/CHS_Aud.pdf)

## What records are there before 1907?

The counties were responsible for collecting birth records before July 1, 1907, which was the day that the state took over.

Many counties kept birth registers, where a birth was 'registered' by entering it into a ledger. Some counties also had birth returns, which were single sheets of paper filled out for each newborn. These records only exist if the family came to register the birth. Unfortunately, some people did not register the births in their family with the county, and there are no records for them.

The county birth registers have been microfilmed, and are available at the Washington State Library. They have also been scanned and are available on [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).

All of the birth records, and indexes in our collection are listed in our [online catalog](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/catalog.aspx). [www.secstate.wa.gov/library/catalog.aspx](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/catalog.aspx) If you find a title that you would like us to search for a specific name, you can submit a lookup request on our [Ask-A-Librarian](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/ask_form.aspx) page. [www.secstate.wa.gov/library/ask\\_form.aspx](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/ask_form.aspx)

## Washington State Archives

The Archives holds the originals of many of the birth registers and returns. They will be held at one of the 5 Archives branches around the state. Check out the [map](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/search.aspx) to locate the correct branch for your county. [www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/search.aspx](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/search.aspx)

Washington State Archives has begun to digitize the birth records in their collections, and the records that have been digitized can be viewed for free on the [Washington State Digital Archives](http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Collections.aspx#RSID:5) web site. [www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Collections.aspx#RSID:5](http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Collections.aspx#RSID:5)

## How can I find a Washington State birth date?

- The Washington State Library has a Washington State Birth Index for July 1, 1907-1929. The index is listed by the fathers name, not by the name of the child. You can submit a specific lookup request on our [Ask-A-Librarian](#) page. Please include the fathers name and a date range, as the index takes up many reels of microfilm. [www.sos.wa.gov/library/ask\\_form.aspx](http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/ask_form.aspx)
- [Washington Birth Index, 1907–1919, on ancestry.com](#) – access by subscription only, the state library has a subscription. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)(\$)
- [Washington Birth Registers, 1891-1907 on ancestry.com](#) – access by subscription only, the state library has a subscription. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)(\$)
- [Birth records on the Washington State Digital Archives](#)  
[www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Collections.aspx#RSID:5](http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Collections.aspx#RSID:5)
- [Washington Birth Index, 1920-1954](#) on Vitalsearch.com – access by subscription only, the state library has a subscription. [www.vitalsearch-ca.com/gen/wa/vitals/wabirthm-go.htm](http://www.vitalsearch-ca.com/gen/wa/vitals/wabirthm-go.htm) (\$)

## Additional Resources

### King County

The [King County Archives](#) has a variety of birth records and indexes in its collection.  
[www.kingcounty.gov/operations/archives/vital/birth.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/archives/vital/birth.aspx)

### Pacific Northwest

[British Columbia Baptisms 1836-1888](#) - <http://search.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/sn-34AD398/gbsearch/Baptisms>  
[British Columbia Births 1872-1903](#) - <http://search.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/sn-298F1DE/gbsearch/Births>  
[British Columbia Birth Registrations 1854-1903](#) - <http://search.labs.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html>  
[California Birth Records 1905-1995](#) (access by subscription only, the state library has subscriptions)  
[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)(\$) and [www.vitalsearch-ca.com/gen/ca/vitals/cabirthm.htm](http://www.vitalsearch-ca.com/gen/ca/vitals/cabirthm.htm)(\$)  
[Oregon Historical Records Index](#) (includes some birth records) - <http://genealogy.state.or.us/>